Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (withdrawn) A method for culturing human embryonic stem cells comprising culturing the stem cells in a nutrient medium in which the stem cells will remain undifferentiated and in an atmosphere having no more than about 5% oxygen.

2. (withdrawn) The method of claim 1 wherein the medium further comprises an antioxidant in the nutrient medium.

3. (withdrawn) An improvement in methods for cloning cultures of human embryonic stem cells, the improvement comprising culturing the human embryonic stem cells prior to cloning in a nutrient medium and in an atmosphere having no more than about 5% oxygen.

4. (withdrawn) The improvement of claim 3 further comprising adding an antioxidant to the nutrient medium in which the stem cells are cultured.

5. (withdrawn) A method for culturing human embryonic stem cells comprising culturing the stem cells in a nutrient medium in which the stem cells can remain undifferentiated and in an atmosphere having no more than about 5% oxygen.

6. (withdrawn) An improvement in a medium for the cultivation of human embryonic stem cells, the improvement comprising that the medium is adjusted to have an osmolarity in excess of 330 mOsMol.

7. (withdrawn) The improvement as claimed in claim 6 wherein the osmolarity of the medium is about 350 mOsMol.

8. (currently amended) A stem cell culture comprising

a culture plate;

a nutrient medium in the culture plate; and

~~growing~~ human embryonic stem cells, wherein the cells are cultured in the medium~~;~~ and the medium having an osmolarity in excess of 330 mOsMol.

9. (original) A stem cell culture as claimed in claim 8 wherein the osmolarity is about 350 mOsMol.

10. (withdrawn) A method for culturing human embryonic stem cells comprising culturing the stem cells in a nutrient medium in which the stem cells will remain undifferentiated, the medium having an osmolarity in excess of 330 mOsMol.

11. (withdrawn) A method as claimed in claim 10 wherein the medium has an osmolarity of about 350mOsMol.

12. (new) The culture of Claim 8 wherein the cells remain undifferentiated.